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All-Africa Conference Hears Alan Paton

(Ibadan, Nigeria) - The people of Africa are "on the march in the modern age", and the Church must march with them, Mr. Alan Paton, well-known South African author, told the 200 delegates to the All-Africa Church Conference, meeting from January 10 to 20 in Ibadan, Nigeria (see EPS No. 48).

Speaking at a conference session considering the topic "The Church and the Christian Attitude Toward the State", Mr. Paton said, "The Church must be the guardian not of what is old, but of what is ageless". "On the whole", he continued, "the South African churches have obeyed the custom of the country in racial matters rather than the great Commandments. The Church must act now on this issue because in the future it will be called upon to help prevent the excesses of extreme nationalism in Africa."

In a later report to a plenary session, a group of delegates considering the question "The Church and Economic Life" recommended that the Church train workers to "meet needs and keep consciences alive". "The Church", they said, "is often too slow to see what is coming". The group also urged a programme of land stewardship, a careful study of migrant labour, political action, minimum wages based on the size of the family, rights of trade unions and pension rights.

Looking at the problems of youth and family life, a report outlined an eleven-point plan including recommendations for church-led premarital and post

marriage groups, the training of pastors as marriage counsellors, better housing and preparation of devotional material for family worship. The Church was also urged to provide "total employment" for youth in church-centred activity.

Regarding "The Church and Politics", delegates reported that the Church has the duty to provide education for Christian citizenship". Recognising that "in view of the special circumstances that surround the emergence of new political institutions in Africa, Christian ministers may be called to political action, in such cases it is recommended that they should resign from their pastorates during their period of political service".

In other action, the conference heard reports that East Nigeria is following the pattern of church union in South India "with sympathy". An all-Nigeria church union committee has been formed, but a final scheme of union is not yet ready. However, the delegates were told, the planners have been influenced by the Constitution of the Church of South India. The Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches are participating. Representatives of the three groups attended the conference as observers.

The conference delegates were officially welcomed by Sir John Rankine, governor of Western Nigeria, and a special message of greeting was received from Premier Obafemi Awolowo. The premier said that he regretted that the world is divided into two giant hostile camps. "The result is that the super-abundant resources with which God has blessed mankind are being applied to barren, harmful and malevolent uses". Expressing his belief in the power of 750 million Christians to turn the tide of world affairs, the premier said, "More than ever before since the days of the apostles, the world today is in dire need of a well-organised and united Christian Church with a disciplined and devoted laity and a fearless and truly divine clergy".

The African delegates to the conference came from twenty-one countries. Also present were leaders of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. The conference, meeting just two days after the close of the IMC Assembly in Ghana (see EPS Nos. 1 and 2), was sponsored by the Christian Council of Nigeria, assisted by the International Missionary Council. A final message issued by the conference is on Page 6.

E.P.S., Geneva

Men and Women in Africa Today

(Ibadan, Nigeria) - The role of "Men and Women in Africa Today" was the subject of a consultation at Ibadan from January 4 to 10, attended by six men and twenty-two women delegates from most of the countries of West Africa and Central Africa and from Madagascar.

The consultation discussed the problems arising from differences in marriage customs, female circumcision, taboos in conjugal relations, birth control, dual standards of sexual morality and the conflict of professional and family duties. Also discussed were the programmes of African women's organisations.

At the close of the consultation, the men who had taken part reported that they "were filled with admiration and respect for African women. The African woman has stood with courage in spite of a long and frightening list of obstacles and has entered into the life of the Church to preach, give financial support and provide Christian nurture for children."

Reporting on the consultation to the conference, Lady Ibiam, wife of Sir Francis Ibiam, chairman of the National Christian Council of Nigeria, said that there is need for more and better education of women and girls. It was recognised, Lady Ibiam said, that Africa needs more trained women, but it was

recommended that a woman wait to enter a profession until her children are grown - and then only with the approval of her husband.

Lady Ibiam said that the women refused to use the term "bride-price". "We are not bought nor sold", she said. "Rather let us talk about dowry or the exchange of family gifts."

Daniel and Vera Mace, new field consultants in home and family life for the International Missionary Council, took part in the consultation. Dr. and Mrs. Mace will be available to the twenty Christian councils in Africa in 1959, following a series of institutes they are planning to hold in Asia.

The consultation was sponsored jointly by the International Missionary Council and the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society of the World Council of Churches. E.P.S., Geneva

CWS Loans UN \$100,000 to Move Refugees from Hong Kong

(Geneva) - In an unprecedented action to aid refugees, Church World Service (CWS), the relief arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, has made 100,000 dollars available on loan to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The money will be used by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration to assist in the emergency transport of European refugees from the north China mainland who are now in Hong Kong awaiting emigration.

A cheque for the full amount was presented to Andrew W. Cordier, executive assistant to the UN Secretary General, at the United Nations on January 17 by Dr. R. Norris Wilson, CWS director.

This is the first time a church organisation has made a loan available to draw attention to the gravity of a refugee emergency. There are 1200 European refugees now in Hong Kong. All have visas for resettlement in overseas countries, particularly Australia and Brazil. Over 80% have obtained resettlement opportunities through the Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches. The Hong Kong governmental authorities have fixed 250 as a desirable upper limit for the number of European refugees in the badly overcrowded colony. As the limit is seriously exceeded at present, for compassionate reasons, 3200 other refugees for whom the World Council of Churches has obtained resettlement visas are forced to remain in north China because the Hong Kong government cannot admit them.

The so-called "Hong Kong logjam" has been due to serious underprovision for ocean transport in the sums available to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). Present resources of the intergovernmental committee provide only for the movement of a further 300 cases. Meanwhile the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which is responsible for the care and maintenance of the refugees in Hong Kong, has only \$300,000 available for this purpose in 1958.

Dr. Elfan Rees, Adviser on Refugee Affairs to the World Council of Churches, told the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund (UNREF) that the loan was "to ensure that movement does not stop pending further grants from governments".

In a subsequent statement Dr. Rees said the anticipated effects of the gift would be "to maintain a steady flow of movements for a longer period than ICEM can itself contemplate" and "to impress upon governments, whose responsibility it is, the serious urgency of the problem and the need for early contributions to ICEM's 1958 budget". E.P.S., Geneva

Archbishop of Canterbury Condemns Artificial Insemination

(London) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, has condemned the practice of artificial insemination by donors other than husbands.

In his presidential address to the Anglican Convocation of Canterbury, the archbishop advocated legislation to "resolve doubts and to preserve under control the integrity of marriage and of the family".

His speech referred to a judgment recently recorded in an Edinburgh court. In response to a petition for divorce on grounds of adultery, lodged by a man whose wife had borne a child after the couple had been separated for sixteen months, the judge had ruled that her artificial insemination did not constitute adultery under present law in the United Kingdom.

The archbishop said that either parentage by this type of donation should be made a criminal offence, or "the law should require that every case be registered; and the register should be available for inspection under safeguards". Dr. Fisher advocated the inclusion of the donor's name by the responsible doctor.

Referring to a report of an Anglican commission on artificial insemination requested by himself and published in 1948, the archbishop said that the doctors, lawyers and theologians composing it had "judged artificial insemination by donor to be wrong in principle and contrary to Christian standards".

"The commission", Dr. Fisher said, "when stating (as it did, fully) the case for this type of insemination, assumed that always the husband would be a consenting party: but in this case it appears that the absent husband knew nothing until the child was born".

The archbishop listed moral objections to the practice. He told the convocation that "the institution of marriage is meant among other things to give to children the security of knowing who their parents are, and to give to society the same security. By this device, artificial insemination through a donor, that security is destroyed at the roots. The truth must never be told to the child. The child is to be the lifelong victim of a deception." E.P.S., Geneva

Catholic and Protestant Warnings Against Mixed Marriages in Germany

(Bielefeld, Germany) - Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders in West Germany have issued warnings on successive Sundays about the dangers of mixed marriages between Protestants and Catholics.

A pastoral letter from the Roman Catholic bishops read in all churches on January 12 was addressed mainly to unmarried Roman Catholics and to parents. It said that a "deep religious cleavage" runs through most mixed marriages and that statistics showed the marriages were inclined to be unstable.

The letter claimed that 50% of children of such unions were "lost to the church", and the leakage was even more serious in the next generation.

A statement from the synod of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland was read in the parishes of that church on January 19, urging church members not to be persuaded into marrying Roman Catholics. Calling certain features of Roman Catholic ecclesiastical law "contrary to the Gospel", the statement said these ordinances menaced the fellowship which God intended to exist in marriage.

Since World War II the number of mixed marriages in West Germany has increased, partly because of an influx of Protestant refugees from East Germany into Catholic areas. In some places 50% of recent marriages are mixed.

E.P.S., Geneva

Methodist Women in US Ask for Peace in Space Age

(Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania) - A programme urging a renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy was adopted by the Methodist Woman's Division of Christian Service at its annual meeting this month in Buck Hill Falls.

The 200 women, representing 1,800,000 members of 31,000 local societies, also urged exploration of areas of negotiation with Russia, placing of outer space control in the United Nations, disarmament, expanded technical and economic programmes of mutual help, more world trade and wider cultural interchange. In other action the women asked for an immediate loan of at least \$500,000,000 to India.

The delegates said that the programme "is neither a cure-all nor an easy undertaking. It may require sacrifice to secure its financing at a time when military burdens are heavy. But we must build the kind of world community in which man's dignity and worth in the sight of God can find earthly fulfilment."

E.P.S., Geneva

European Church Leaders Plan Cooperation

(Berlin, Germany) - A conference called in Berlin by Bishop Otto Dibelius, German president of the World Council of Churches, has advocated wider cooperation on a regional basis between the European churches.

The meeting was attended by representatives of British churches and the regional Lutheran churches in Germany, and endeavoured to find a wider formula for common action in Europe following beginnings made at Liselund, Denmark, in May, 1957. Encouragement for the idea had come previously from the Central Committee and Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

In a message issued after the Berlin conference, stress was laid on the need for full participation in any future organisation from Orthodox and Anglican churches and from both Eastern and Western Europe.

Bishop Dibelius, Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hanover and Dr. Egbert Emmen of the Netherlands Reformed Church have been asked to call a wider meeting to discuss common concerns of the churches in Europe, including world peace and political and economic issues.

Participants in the Berlin conference included the Rev. Kenneth Slack, General Secretary of the British Council of Churches, Dr. Robert Mackie as chairman of the British Council of Churches' International Department, Professor Henri d'Espine as president of the Swiss Protestant Federation, Dr. Ernst Wilm, president of the Church of Westphalia, and Dr. Hans-Heinrich Harms of the World Council of Churches.

E.P.S., Geneva

In brief

Martin Giersch, Protestant student chaplain at Weimar, has been sentenced by the Court at Erfurt to fourteen months' imprisonment for "inciting to boycott". He was accused of using his ministry "to influence young people against the state", of urging students at Bible study classes not to participate in elections, and of having carried on "activities hostile to the Democratic Republic" during a lecture tour in Western Germany.

The Education Bill drawn up by the communist state of Kerala, India, (see EPS No. 36, 1957) has been submitted to the Indian national High Court of Justice for its approval. President Nehru explains that the Indian government wants to get rid of this bone of contention. "We want to know whether Kerala has done anything contrary to the Constitution of our country", he declared. Before it can be ratified the bill will also have to be accepted by the Central Government in Delhi.

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The Government of Indonesia has granted entrance visas for three workers of the West German Rhenish Mission to Indonesia in the spring of 1958. The Council of Churches in Indonesia has been told that missionaries, medical missionaries and teachers will not be affected by expulsion orders issued against Dutch citizens. Swiss workers of the Basel mission are also continuing their work in Java and Borneo without interference.

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The world-wide membership in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) totals 192,820, a gain of 3,560 over the previous year, according to the Friend World Committee.

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United States Methodists gave a record \$25,779,279 in 1957 for their missionary work at home and overseas. The figure is a 12 per cent increase over 1956. At the same time, the Methodist Board of Missions spent a record \$25,206,494 during 1957 in the United States, its territories and fifty countries abroad. E.P.S., Geneva

Special Reports

All Africa Church Conference Ibadan, Nigeria, January 10-20, 1958 Message to the Churches of Africa

We the delegates of the first All Africa Church Conference that has ever been held in Africa, rejoice that God has called us together and in His Name we send greetings from Ibadan in Nigeria to all the churches of Africa.

We come from the countries of Sierra Leone, Gambia, Nigeria, of French West Africa, Liberia and Togo, the Cameroons, French Equatorial Africa, Belgian Congo, Angola, South Africa, Mozambique, Egypt, Ethiopia and Madagascar, as well as other parts of the world. But although our languages are many, our reason for coming here is the same, that we love the Lord Jesus Christ and are witnesses to His Gospel, that in Him we are one people whether we speak Ibo, Yoruba, Douala, English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Sesuto, Portuguese, French, Kikuyu or any other language that is spoken by the people who live in Africa. We are one in Him who was born a Jew in Bethlehem, fled from Herod into Egypt, grew up in Nazareth, died in Jerusalem, arose there and lives today in Ibadan and in every other city and village in the world that His Father created. Of this oneness in Christ we have been given such a rich experience at this Conference that not one of us is likely to forget it.

To be here is to have abundant cause to thank God for the way that the Gospel has been brought to so many countries and to be filled with astonished joy that it has transformed the lives of so many men and women of Africa.

In a continent where such massive events lie ahead, we thank God that the Christian Church has taken such deep root. We know there are millions who have not heard the Gospel and we accept the challenge of the evangelising of our countries, especially in the face of the dangers of materialism and secularism.

While this experience of unity has been rich and deep, we acknowledge with penitence our many divisions which have prevented us from witnessing to our unity in Him, but this we still purpose to do with His assistance. We believe that Christ challenges us to overcome these divisions in the Church and to work for the removal of all injustices based on racial discrimination which we believe to be contrary to the will of God.

We rejoice in the advance of African countries toward self government and in the liberation of African energies and talents, praying that they may be used for the service of Him whom we acknowledge to be the Lord of all mankind.

The continent of Africa will see unparalleled events and changes during the rest of this century, welcomed by some, feared by others. We pray that the Christian Church of Africa will play its role as champion, teacher, counsellor and shepherd during these crucial years. We are humbly aware of our responsibilities to God and to this continent, and dedicate ourselves anew to their performance, trusting that we shall be led and supported by our fellow Christians throughout Africa and the world.

In the name of the Father of all men, in the name of the Son who saved us all, in the name of the Holy Spirit who inspires us, we declare ourselves to be one in Christ. Amen.

E.P.S., Geneva

A View of the Protestant Church in South America

South America, with its 154 million people in a territory as large as Europe and the United States put together, is a "tremendous challenge both to the Roman Catholic and the Protestant Churches", according to Dr. A. Rodriguez of Union Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba.

Reporting to the Assembly of the International Missionary Council in Accra, Ghana, this month, he pointed out that the Protestant Church is comparatively small - five million members out of the total population of 154 million. At the same time, he said that the Roman Catholic Church claims 47 million members. "Hence, there remain 102 million Latin Americans beyond the reach of any Christian spiritual inspiration. It is not just the single question of seeing who gets the largest number first, but of giving Christian assistance to such a large number of people who, living without it, are losing contact with the real spiritual and moral values of life. They are falling prey to other movements which may lead them astray forever."

Going on, Dr. Rodriguez said:

"Protestant Christianity in South America is on the march. Undoubtedly, in the near future, the Protestant movement will be recognised by all as the most significant and transforming factor in the life of the Latin American people. Right now, the influence of the Protestant community in Latin America is far out of proportion to its numerical size.

"Though much of the Protestant work in Latin America is already self-supporting and self-governing, it must be remembered that these young churches are just beginning to stand on their own feet. We must stand by them, with our prayers, our sympathy and with all kinds of assistance and help. The most urgent need is to enlarge and improve the theological institutions already in existence in Latin America. It is a fact that the Protestant work in our

countries has extended so far that there are not enough trained leaders to care for it properly. The other great need is the production and distribution of Christian literature. We need to permeate the thought of Latin America with Christian ideas and ideals. Much has been accomplished along this line during the last fifteen or twenty years, mainly through the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America. But there is much to be done yet, and more liberal contributions would not only cause a larger production but a larger range of subjects, titles and authors. Help also is greatly needed in radio broadcasting, social service and student centres. Here we have an open door to a great area of service, but we lack manpower and material means.

"The extraordinary development of the Protestant movement in Latin America in recent years is, undoubtedly, a sign that in God's providence, on the clock of history, the hands are already pointing to the dawning of a new day in Latin America. But the very same hands are pointing also to an hour that raises many problems and creates new situations, calling for vision and long-range planning."

E.P.S., Geneva

The International Review of Missions

A survey of the Christian mission, region by region, over the past year, is a feature of the January issue of the International Review of Missions.

The survey looks at political independence, at the role and opportunity of the Christian schools and the prospects of their relationships with governments. At the same time, the issue surveys refugees and population shifts and the growing impact of Communism in the lands of the younger churches.

Joint Christian enterprises and experiments and plans in India, Ceylon, Burma and the Near East for a deeper study of the great non-Christian faiths all are examined in the current issue of the Review.

Articles in the January issue follow the same emphasis as the survey section. The Rev. Fred Rea, principal of Epworth Theological College, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, writes on "The Needs for a Unified Church in Southern Rhodesia"; the Rev. J.R. Shaw of the United Society for Christian Literature describes successful efforts in distributing books. Prominent in the thirty-page review section are discussions of books on church union, the non-Christian faiths and mission-are biography.

E.P.S., Geneva

The Ecumenical Review

The Ecumenical Review, World Council of Churches quarterly, features speeches and findings of the North American Conference on Faith and Order, held last August at Oberlin, Ohio, USA, in its January number.

Paul Minear of Boston, who was prominent in organising the conference, discusses its significance, and James J. McCord introduces the report of the section on "The Table of the Lord". Joseph Sittler's address on "The Shape of the Church's Response in Worship" and an "anthology" of conference documents complete the report.

Other articles include a review of the ecumenical opportunity in Latin America by Benjamin Moraes, and a statement on "The YMCA, the Church and Christian Unity" issued within the World Alliance of YMCAs.

The "World Council Diary" deals further with the Oberlin meeting, and Hendrik Kraemer's "Religion and the Christian Faith" is prominent among books reviewed in the issue.

E.P.S., Geneva